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(54) Calcium-supplemented beverages and beverage concentrates containing low levels of sulfate.

(57) Beverages and beverage concentrates nutritionally supplemented with significant levels of solubilized calcium and containing low levels of sulfate, preferably in combination with low levels of chloride, are disclosed. These beverages and concentrates also contain specified levels of volatile acids selected from phosphoric acid, citric acid, malic acid, fumaric acid, adipic acid, gluconic acid, and lactic acid, as well as mixtures of these acids. The particular acid systems are selected to provide the desired flavor and sourness character for the beverages and concentrates. Inclusion of low levels of sulfate/chloride in these beverages and concentrates provides a quicker onset of sourness, prevents or reduces aftertaste effects and improves the solubility of the calcium, particularly when high levels of phosphoric acid or citric acid are used. Inclusion of sulfate/chloride also prevents or reduces the precipitation and deposition of calcium salts on equipment surfaces during the pasteurization or sterilization of calcium-containing fruit juice beverages.

EP 0 301 653 A1

**CALCIUM-SUPPLEMENTED BEVERAGES AND BEVERAGE CONCENTRATES CONTAINING LOW LEVELS
OF SULFATE**

TECHNICAL FIELD

5 This application relates to beverages and beverage concentrates for preparing same which are nutritionally supplemented with significant levels of calcium. This application particularly relates to calcium-supplemented beverages and beverage concentrates which contain low levels of sulfate, preferably in combination with low levels of chloride.

10 Dietary calcium inadequacy may be a contributing cause to osteoporosis, at least for some populations. For example, a positive correlation between calcium intake and bone mass has been found across many age groups. It has also been suggested that the level of calcium intake early in life directly influences the peak bone mass achieved at skeletal maturity.

15 During the period of late teenage to young adulthood, it has been found that a significant reduction in dietary calcium intake typically occurs. This is especially true of the female population where reduced dietary calcium intake usually happens much earlier in life compared to their male counterparts. Accordingly, females, as a class, are especially susceptible to a prolonged calcium deficit over their life span. This calcium deficit may be one reason for the greater incidence of osteoporosis in postmenopausal women.

20 Calcium can be obtained from a variety of dietary sources. The primary sources of calcium are dairy products, in particular milk. Milk provides a very valuable source of dietary calcium. However, beginning in young adulthood and continuing through later life, milk is typically not consumed in sufficient quantities by the general population to obtain needed levels of calcium. This may be caused by the unattractiveness of milk as a drink for "social occasions." Indeed, it has been found that teenage girls, and especially young adult women, generally find milk to be a socially unattractive drink, as well as too caloric and unappealing in taste.

25 To achieve greater consumption of calcium, a more appealing alternative to milk is apparently needed. This alternative must be one which is consumed in sufficient quantity to provide nutritionally beneficial amounts of calcium. Products which are consumed in great quantities by teenagers and young adults are carbonated soft drinks. Unlike milk, soft drinks can be formulated with a variety of flavors generated by natural flavor oils, flavor extracts and synthetically derived flavor materials, which may be the reason why 30 soft drinks are very attractive to this particular group. Beverages which are consumed often by the general public, especially at breakfast, are fruit juice products, particularly orange juice. Like milk, orange juice has a wholesome, nutritional image, but is generally considered to have a more appealing taste. Accordingly, soft drinks or fruit juice products nutritionally supplemented with calcium could be viewed as potential vehicles for achieving greater dietary calcium intake during this critical teenage/young adult period, and 35 throughout life as well.

30 Nutritional supplementation of soft drinks, or other non-milk beverages like fruit juice, with significant levels of calcium is not straight forward. Milk contains, on average, about 0.12% calcium by weight. Inclusion of such a high level of calcium in a soft drink or other non-milk beverage requires consideration of a number of issues.

40 One is making sure that the calcium supplemented drink has desirable taste and mouthfeel qualities. It has been found that high levels of calcium can impart significant "chalky" mouthfeel sensations to a soft drink. This has been found to be especially true for soft drinks based on high levels of citric acid as the acidulant. In addition, it has been found that high levels of calcium can cause undesirable "biting/burning" mouthfeel sensations long after the soft drink is consumed. This "after-taste" problem is especially true of 45 soft drinks based on high levels of phosphoric acid as the acidulant.

40 Another factor which must be considered is the sourness impression of the soft drink. Calcium-containing soft drinks based on high levels of edible acids such as citric acid or phosphoric acid typically have a slower, more lingering onset of sourness. This is due to the ability of these acids to buffer the soft drink to a relatively high, though acidic pH. A quicker onset of sourness is usually desirable for certain soft drinks, in particular those having a cola-type flavor.

50 Another potential issue is precipitation of insoluble calcium salts such as calcium citrate and calcium phosphate. Stability against precipitation is a very significant problem for beverage concentrates used to

5 prepare soft drinks or other non-milk beverages like fruit juice because of the very high levels of calcium salts present. However, at even moderate concentrations in drinkable surfaces during pasteurization or sterilization of calcium-containing fruit juice beverages.

BACKGROUND ART

10 U.S. Patent 4,325,975 to Lindon et al., issued April 20, 1982, discloses mineralized drinking water formulations consisting essentially of strontium ions (20-40 milligrams per liter), magnesium ions (50-100 milligrams per liter), calcium ions (60-125 milligrams per liter), and chloride ions (0.06 to 0.15 milligrams per liter). These ions are added to distilled water in the form of water-soluble salts such as the sulfates, nitrates or chlorides.

15 U.S. Patent 4,448,770 to Epting, issued May 15, 1984, discloses a dietetic beverage containing, per gallon, 30 to 50 milliequivalents of potassium ion, 5 to 10 milliequivalents of calcium ion, 1 to 3 milliequivalents of magnesium ion, and 5 to 10 ounces of sucrose. Suitable potassium salts include the sulfate, citrate, and preferably chloride salts. Suitable calcium salts include the chloride and preferably gluconate salts. The magnesium ion is preferably supplied as the magnesium chloride salt.

20 U.S. Patent 4,322,407 to Ko, issued March 30, 1982, discloses an electrolyte drink containing sodium, potassium, magnesium, chloride, sulfate, phosphate, citrate, sucrose, dextrose, ascorbic acid and pyridoxine.

25 U.S. Patent 4,384,005 to McSweeney, issued May 17, 1983, discloses compressed tablets which rapidly dissolve in water. These tablets can be used in beverage preparation. One such tablet (Example 4) is prepared from citric acid (580 grams), malic acid (70 grams), anhydrous moistener (56 grams), corn syrup (55 grams), dextrin (25 grams), and calcium sulfate (20 grams).

30 U.S. Patent 2,297,599 to Wilen, issued September 29, 1942, discloses effervescent tablets consisting of an effervescent core and an outer layer containing a therapeutic agent. One such effervescent alkalinizing tablet contains calcium gluconate, magnesium sulfate, sodium chloride and an effervescent base of sodium bicarbonate, citric acid and tartaric acid.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

35 The present invention relates to beverages, and beverage concentrates for preparing same, which are nutritionally supplemented with significant levels of calcium. The present invention also relates to fruit juice beverages of the present invention.

40 (a) from about 0.05 to about 0.15% by weight solubilized calcium; (b) from about 0.07 to about 1% by weight of an edible acid component; (c) from about 0.02 to about 0.14% by weight sulfate; (d) up to about 0.05% by weight chloride; (e) the amount of sulfate and chloride combined being up to about 0.14% by weight; (f) an effective amount of a flavor component; and (g) an effective amount of a sweetener.

45 For the beverage concentrates of the present invention, the level of solubilized calcium is from about 0.15 to about 0.2 to about 5% by weight, the level of the acid component is from about 0.75% by weight, the level of the acid component is from about 0.06 to about 0.7% by weight, the level of sulfate is from about 0.06 to about 0.7% by weight, the level of chloride is up to about 0.25% by weight and the level of sulfate and chloride combined up to about 0.14% by weight.

50 The present invention further relates to fruit juice beverages which are nutritionally supplemented with significant levels of calcium. These fruit juice beverages comprise:

(a) from about 0.05 to about 0.26% by weight solubilized calcium; (b) from about 0.4 to about 4% by weight of an edible acid component; (c) from about 0.02 to about 0.1% by weight sulfate; (d) up to about 0.07% by weight chloride; (e) the amount of sulfate and chloride combined being up to about 0.12% by weight; (f) at least about 45% fruit juice; and

(g) a sugar content of from about 2 to about 16° Brix.

For fruit juice concentrates of the present invention, the level of stabilized calcium is from about 0.15 to about 1.30% by weight, the level of the acid component is from about 1.2 to about 20% by weight, the level of sulfate is from about 0.06 to about 0.5% by weight, the level of chloride is up to about 0.35% by weight, the level of sulfate and chloride combined is up to about 0.6% by weight, and the sugar content is from about 6 to about 75° Brix.

The fruit juice and other beverages of the present invention contain significant levels of nutritionally beneficial calcium. Inclusion of low levels of sulfate (preferably in combination with low levels of chloride) improves the solubility of calcium in these beverages, and especially concentrates for preparing these beverages, even when they contain high levels of citric acid or phosphoric acid. Certain of these beverages also have a quicker onset of sourness, even when acid systems such as citric acid or phosphoric acid are used, as well as reduced aftertaste. In addition, the sulfate/chloride reduces or prevents the precipitation and depositing of calcium salts on equipment surfaces during pasteurization or sterilization of calcium-containing fruit juice beverages.

15

A. Definitions

As used herein, the term "beverage" refers to a beverage composition which is in a single-strength, ready-to-serve, drinkable form. Beverages of the present invention typically comprise at least 80% (preferably at least 85%) water. Beverages contemplated within the scope of the present invention include both carbonated and noncarbonated forms.

As used herein, the term "beverage concentrate" refers to a beverage composition in liquid form used to prepare a drinkable beverage. Sugar-sweetened beverage concentrates within the scope of the present invention typically comprise from 30 to 70% (preferably from 40 to 60%) water. They are usually formulated to provide drinkable beverages when diluted with 2 to 4 parts by weight water.

As used herein, the term "beverage syrup" refers to a beverage concentrate which further comprises sugar. Beverage syrups typically comprise from 30 to 70% by weight sugar.

As used herein, the term "fruit juice product" refers to both fruit juice beverages and fruit juice concentrates which comprise at least about 45% fruit juice.

As used herein, the term "fruit juice beverage" refers to a fruit juice product which is in a single-strength, ready-to-serve, drinkable form. Fruit juice beverages of the present invention can be of the "full-strength" type which typically comprise at least about 95% fruit juice.

Fruit juice beverages within the scope of the present invention can include extended juice products which are referred to as "nectars." These extended juice products typically comprise from about 50 to about 90% fruit juice. Preferred extended juice products comprise from about 50 to about 70% fruit juice.

As used herein, the term "fruit juice concentrate" refers to a fruit juice product which, when diluted with appropriate amount of water, forms drinkable fruit juice beverages. Fruit juice concentrates within the scope of the present invention are typically formulated to provide drinkable beverages when diluted with 2 to 4 parts by weight water.

As used herein, the term "concentrated fruit juice" refers to fruit juice from which a portion of the water has been removed.

As used herein, the term "fruit juice materials" refers to concentrated fruit juice, plus other fruit juice materials such as fruit juice aroma and flavor volatiles, peel oils, and pectin or pomace.

As used herein, the term "fruit juice" refers to citrus juices, noncitrus juices such as apple juice, grape juice, pear juice, cherry juice, berry juice, pineapple juice, peach juice, apricot juice, plum juice, prune juice, passion fruit juice, banana juice, and mixtures of these juices.

As used herein, the term "citrus juice" refers to fruit juices selected from orange juice, lemon juice, lime juice, grapefruit juice, tangerine juice and mixtures thereof.

As used herein, the term "comprising" means various components can be conjointly employed in the beverages and beverage concentrates of the present invention. Accordingly, the term "comprising" encompasses the more restrictive terms "consisting essentially of" and "consisting of."

All amounts of fruit juice referred to herein are on a single-strength basis.

B. Calcium Levels, Acid Systems and Sulfate/Chloride Levels

The key nutritional component of the beverages and beverage concentrates of the present invention is calcium. Suitable sources of calcium include calcium carbonate, calcium sulfate, calcium chloride, calcium phosphat, calcium hydrogen-phosphate and calcium dihydrogen phosphate, calcium hydroxide, as well as the respective sour salts of calcium, e.g., calcium citrate, calcium lactate, calcium malate, calcium gluconate or calcium sulfate, which optionally and particularly preferred calcium sources. To be useful in the present invention, the calcium needs to be "solubilized", i.e., dissolved or suspended, in the beverage or beverage concentrate. Accordingly, the amount of calcium included in the beverages and beverage concentrates of the present invention will be referred to as the amount of calcium ion dissolved or suspended.

For beverages of the present invention, calcium is present in the minimum level of calcium (about half of milk level) provided by the beverage. The maximum level of calcium is up to 0.26% typically up to about 0.15% for other beverages. As the level of calcium goes much beyond 0.26% by weight (beyond 0.15% by weight), stability properties become much more difficult to achieve. Preferred levels of calcium in fruit juice beverages is from about 0.10 to 0.20% by weight which includes about 0.055 to about 0.09% by weight for other beverages.

With regard to fruit juice concentrates used to prepare fruit juice beverages of the present invention, the amount of calcium present is from about 0.15% to about 1% by weight for fruit juice concentrates, the amount of calcium present is typically from about 0.3 to about 0.75% by weight. Typically, fruit juice beverages of the present invention are prepared from 3-fold to 5-fold (5X) beverage concentrates. Accordingly, the level of solubilized calcium is preferably in the range of from about 0.3 to about 1% by weight for fruit juice concentrates and from about 0.16 to about 0.45% by weight for other beverage concentrates.

A key component for drinkable beverages and beverage concentrates of the present invention is the standpoint of stability against precipitation of insoluble calcium. A desirable onset of sourness is the edible acid component (additive). This additive comprises one or more edible acids, which can include phosphoric acid, adipic acid, lactic acid, tartaric acid, gluconic acid or mixtures thereof in their undisassociated form or else as the respective sour salts. Calcium dihydrogen phosphate, citrate, malate, tartrate, gluconate and similar systems comprise phosphoric acid, citric acid, malic acid, gluconic acid or combinations thereof.

For the purposes of the present invention, the level of total acids depends on the beverage composition involved, the level of acids being determined by taste and stability properties desired. For fruit juice beverages having from about 0.15% to about 1% by weight solubilized calcium, the level of total acids can range from about 0.05 to about 0.26% by weight. For fruit juice concentrates used to prepare such beverages, the level of total acids can range from about 0.4 to about 4% by weight. (For fruit juice concentrates used to prepare such beverages, the level of total acids can range from about 0.15% to about 1% by weight solubilized calcium, the level of total acids can range from about 0.2 to about 5% by weight (from about 0.055 to about 0.09% by weight solubilized calcium, the level of total acids preferably ranges from 0.1 to 0.6% by weight (from about 0.055 to about 0.09% by weight solubilized calcium used to prepare these beverages having from about 0.055 to about 0.09% by weight solubilized calcium, the level of total acids preferably ranges from 0.1 to 0.6% by weight (from about 0.055 to about 0.09% by weight solubilized calcium used to prepare these beverages).

An important component for the beverages and beverage concentrates of the present invention is the level of sulfate present. Inclusion of low levels of sulfate (preferably chloride) in beverages of the present invention has been found to be beneficial. One benefit is to cause a quicker onset of sourness in certain beverages having from about 0.055 to about 0.09% by weight solubilized calcium. This is believed to be due to a reduction in the buffering capacity of the edible acids present. (Chloride is believed to aid the quicker onset of sourness due to a taste mechanism interaction.) Another important benefit is that calcium in the beverage/ concentrate, even where high levels of calcium are present, is also believed to be due to a reduction in the buffering capacity of the edible acids present. Another benefit

is a reduction in aftertaste effects, particularly the "biting/burning" fortified beverages containing phosphoric acid. This aftertaste is believed to be the result of reduced calcium-phosphate interactions due to the presence of citric acid.

ertaste associated with calcium-
to be due to delayed precipitation
ate/chloride inclusion is believed
ation-in-pH.

5 For fruit juice beverages having from about 0.05 to about 0.26% by weight of sulfate can range from about 0.02 to about 0.1% by weight, while the level of chloride can range from about 0.07% by weight. (For fruit juice concentrates used to prepare such beverages, the level of sulfate can range from about 0.06 to about 0.5% by weight, while the level of chloride can range from about 0.35% by weight.) For other beverages having from about 0.05 to 10 about 0.14% by weight of calcium, the level of sulfate can range from about 0.02 to about 0.14% by weight, while the level of chloride can range up to about 0.05%. (For beverage concentrates used to prepare such beverages, the level of sulfate can range from about 0.06 to about 0.7% by weight, while the level of chloride can range from about 0.25% by weight.) At sulfate levels much above 0.10% by weight, or at chloride levels much above 0.14% by weight, in juice beverages (above 0.14% by weight or 15 above 0.14% by weight for concentrates), the sulfate and chloride concentrations are sufficiently high to note which is considered undesirable. At sulfate levels much below 0.10% by weight, the sourness, aftertaste and improved solubility of calcium is significantly reduced. The total amount of sulfate and chloride combined should be no more than about 0.12% by weight for the present invention, and no more than about 0.6% by weight for 20 beverages, the combined amount of sulfate and chloride should be no more than about 0.10% by weight, and no more than about 0.5% by weight for beverage concentrates used to prepare such beverages.

ight solubilized calcium, the level level of chloride can range up to in beverages, the level of sulfate chloride can range up to about but 0.15% by weight solubilized weight, while the level of chloride these other beverages, the level level of chloride can range up to or chloride levels much above by weight, respectively, in other cause a noticeable salty/brackish by weight, the effect of sulfate on nized. In addition, the amount of weight for fruit juice beverages of fruit juice concentrates. For other more than about 0.14% by weight at 0.7% by weight (preferably no se beverages.

Sources of sulfate and chloride for inclusion in beverages and invention can be from sulfuric acid or hydrochloric acid, or salts 25 chloride. Preferably, the sulfate and chloride are derived from calcium also serve as at least partial sources of calcium. Calcium sulfate and from about 3.2 to 100% by weight of the solubilized calcium for fruit about 5.6 to 100% by weight of the solubilized calcium for other calcium sulfate and calcium chloride combined supply from about 30 calcium present in fruit juice beverages/concentrates and from about 9 present in other beverages/concentrates.

age concentrates of the present as calcium sulfate and calcium sulfate and calcium chloride, which calcium chloride combined can supply beverages/concentrates and from beverages/concentrates. Preferably, to about 60% of the solubilized to 89% of the solubilized calcium

C. Other Components of Beverages and Beverage Concentrates

1. Fruit Juice Beverages and Juice Concentrates

The fruit juice beverages and juice concentrates of the present invention normally contain sucrose, glucose, invert sugar, and mixtures thereof. The amount of sugar need be sufficient for the calcium-supplemented fruit juice beverages and invention. However, in the case of extended juice products, sugar is usually sucrose or high fructose corn syrup.

vention also contain the sugars lactose, high fructose corn syrup, or present in fruit juices is usually the concentrates of the present ally added, usually in the form of

In addition to sugar, extended fruit juice beverages of the sweeteners. Other suitable sweeteners include saccharin, cyclophenylalanine lower alkyl ester sweeteners (e.g. aspartame), L-aspartic acid, Patent 4,411,925 to Brennan et al., issued October 23, 1983 (herein incorporated by reference), D-serine amides disclosed in U.S. Patent 4,399,163 to Brennan et al., incorporated by reference), L-aspartyl-L-1-hydroxymethylalkaneamide, Patent 4,338,346 to Brand, issued December 21, 1982 (herein incorporated by reference), ethylalkaneamide sweeteners disclosed in U.S. Patent 4,423,029 (herein incorporated by reference), L-aspartyl-D-phenylglycine ester and amide, Patent Application 168,112 to J. M. Janusz, published January 15, 1985 and the like. A particularly preferred sweetener for use in such extended

ent invention can contain other sweeteners, acetosulfam, L-aspartyl-L-alanine amides disclosed in U.S. Patent 4,420,880 (herein incorporated by reference), L-aspartyl-1-hydroxy-3-methylbutane amide disclosed in U.S. Patent 4,420,881 (herein incorporated by reference), L-aspartyl-1-hydroxy-3-methylbutane amide disclosed in European Patent Application 0 033 432 (herein incorporated by reference), sucralose products disclosed in European Patent Application 0 033 432 (herein incorporated by reference), and aspartame.

For single-strength fruit juice beverages, the sugar content can be

from about 2 to about 16° Brix.

For full-strength beverages containing at least about 95% fruit juice, the sugar content is typically from about 5 to about 14° Brix. For extended juice beverages which comprise from about 50 to about 90% fruit juice, the sugar content is typically from about 5 to about 13° Brix (no other sweetener) or from about 2 to about 8° Brix (other sweetener containing).

5 For fruit juice concentrates according to the present invention, the sugar content can range from about 6 to about 75° Brix. Typically, the sugar content of these juice concentrates is from about 20 to about 50° Brix. For orange juice concentrates, the sugar content is preferably in about 35° to about 50° Brix.

The fruit juice beverages and juice concentrates of the present invention are typically substantially free of added protein. Examples of such proteins include soy protein, whey protein concentrate, and the like.

10 These proteins can react with fruit juice aromas and flavors if hydrolyzed, can form short-chain peptides or amino acids which have undesirable bitter flavors. In fruit juice beverages of the present invention, the amount of added protein is generally no more than about 0.1% by weight. Preferably, these beverages and concentrates contain no added protein.

15 Other optional ingredients typically present in fruit juice products can be included in the beverages and concentrates of the present invention. For example, preservatives can be included. Suitable vitamins include A, D, E, C (ascorbic acid), B₁ (thiamin), B₂ (riboflavin), B₆, B₁₂, niacin, folic acid and biotin. Other minerals besides calcium which can be included are iron, zinc, potassium, magnesium, manganese and copper. If desired, natural and/or synthetic flavorings and colorings can be included in these beverages and concentrates.

20

2. Other Beverages and Beverage Concentrates

25

a. Flavor Component

Other beverages and beverage concentrates of the present invention typically comprise a flavor component which contains a flavor selected from fruit flavors used herein, the term "fruit flavor" refers to those flavors derived from the edible reproductive part of a seed plant, especially one having a sweet pulp associated with the flavor" are synthetically prepared flavors made to simulate fruit. Particularly preferred fruit flavors are the citrus flavors including orange and grapefruit flavors. Besides citrus flavors, a variety of other flavors, grape flavors, cherry flavors, pineapple flavors and the like, natural sources such as fruit juices and flavor oils, or else synthetically prepared.

As used herein, the term "botanical flavor" refers to flavors derived from parts of a plant other than the fruit. As such, botanical flavors can include those flavors derived from nuts, bark, roots and leaves. Also included within the term "botanical flavor" are synthetically prepared flavors made to simulate botanical flavors derived from natural sources. Examples of such flavors are kola flavors, tea flavors, and the like. These botanical flavors can be derived from natural sources or else synthetically prepared.

The flavor component can comprise a blend of various flavors with citrus flavors to form cola flavors, etc. If desired, fruit juice, apple juice, grape juice and the like can be used in the flavor component. The flavor component are sometimes formed into emulsion droplets within the flavor concentrate. Because these droplets usually have a specific density, they therefore form a separate phase, weighting agents (which can be used to keep the emulsion droplets dispersed in the beverage) can be added. Examples of such weighting agents are brominated vegetable oils (BVO) and rosin esters, in particular. See Developments In Soft Drinks Technology, Vol. 1, (Applied Science Publishers Ltd. 1978), incorporated by reference), for a further description of the use of such weighting agents in beverages. Besides weighting agents, emulsifiers and emulsifying agents can be used to stabilize the emulsion droplets. Examples of such emulsifiers and emulsifying agents are celluloses, polysorbates, sorbitan esters and propylene glycol esters.

The particular amount of the flavor component effective in the beverages and beverage concentrates of the present invention will depend upon the flavor(s) selected, the flavor impression desired, and the like.

invention typically comprise a flavor component which contains a flavor selected from the edible reproductive part of a seed plant. Also included within the term "fruit flavor" are synthetically prepared flavors made to simulate fruit flavors derived from natural sources. Examples of such flavors are orange flavors, lemon flavors, lime flavors and grapefruit flavors. These fruit flavors can be derived from natural sources such as fruit juices and flavor oils, or else synthetically prepared.

As used herein, the term "botanical flavor" refers to flavors derived from parts of a plant other than the fruit. As such, botanical flavors can include those flavors derived from nuts, bark, roots and leaves. Also included within the term "botanical flavor" are synthetically prepared flavors made to simulate botanical flavors derived from natural sources. Examples of such flavors are kola flavors, tea flavors, and the like. These botanical flavors can be derived from natural sources or else synthetically prepared.

The flavor component can comprise a blend of various flavors with citrus flavors to form cola flavors, etc. If desired, fruit juice, apple juice, grape juice and the like can be used in the flavor component. The flavor component are sometimes formed into emulsion droplets within the flavor concentrate. Because these droplets usually have a specific density, they therefore form a separate phase, weighting agents (which can be used to keep the emulsion droplets dispersed in the beverage) can be added. Examples of such weighting agents are brominated vegetable oils (BVO) and rosin esters, in particular. See Developments In Soft Drinks Technology, Vol. 1, (Applied Science Publishers Ltd. 1978), pp. 87-93 (herein incorporated by reference), for a further description of the use of such weighting agents in beverages. Besides weighting agents, emulsifiers and emulsifying agents can be used to stabilize the emulsion droplets. Examples of such emulsifiers and emulsifying agents are celluloses, polysorbates, sorbitan esters and propylene glycol esters.

The particular amount of the flavor component effective in the beverages and beverage concentrates of the present invention will depend upon the flavor(s) selected, the flavor impression desired, and the like.

The particular amount of the flavor component effective in the beverages and beverage concentrates of the present invention will depend upon the flavor(s) selected, the flavor impression desired, and the like.

components which are substantially free of fruit juice, i.e., on a single strength basis, no more than about 1% fruit juice by weight of the beverage, the flavor component can comprise at least about 0.05% by weight of the beverage composition, and typically from about 0.1 to 2% by weight for carbonated beverages. When fruit juices are used, the flavor component can comprise about 40% fruit juice by weight of the beverage, preferably from about 15% fruit juice by weight for carbonated beverages.

b. Sweeteners

Beverages and beverage syrups of the present invention contain sugar. As used herein, the term "sugar" refers to mono- and such sugars include sucrose, glucose, fructose, high fructose corn syrup. Preferred sugars are sucrose and high fructose corn syrup. Sugars have been found to enhance the absorbability/bioavailability of the invention.

For diet beverages, noncaloric sweeteners can be used. Examples of such sweeteners include saccharin, cyclamates, acetosulfam, L-aspartyl-L-phenylalanine amide sweeteners disclosed in U.S. Patent 4,411,925 to Brennan et al., issued October 23, 1983 (herein incorporated by reference), L-aspartyl-D-serine amides disclosed in U.S. Patent 4,399,163 to Brennan et al., issued August 16, 1983 (herein incorporated by reference), L-aspartyl-L-1-hydroxymethylalkaneamide sweeteners disclosed in U.S. Patent 4,338,346 to Brand, issued December 21, 1982 (herein incorporated by reference), L-aspartyl-1-hydroxyethylalkaneamide sweeteners disclosed in U.S. Patent 4,423,029 to Rizzi, issued December 27, 1983 (herein incorporated by reference), and the like. The acid systems of the present invention can provide improved hydrolytic stability for phenylalanine ester (e.g. aspartame) sweeteners in the critical pH range of about 4.0 to about 4.8.

The amount of the sweetener effective in the beverages of the present invention depends upon the particular sweetener(s) used and the sweetness intensity desired. For sugar, this amount varies depending upon the sweetness intensity of the particular sweetener. For example, from about 1 to about 14% (typically from about 6 to about 14%) by weight for carbonated beverages. Preferred beverages contain from about 9 to about 13% by weight sugar for beverages of the present invention, any sugar or other sweetener, such as in fruit juice, is also included.) Low-calorie sweetener such as aspartame and a sugar such as high fructose corn syrup of the present invention. For beverage syrups of the present invention, the amount of sugar is higher. Usually, the amount of sugar in a beverage syrup is from about 40 to about 60% by weight. Preferably, such beverage syrups contain from about 40 to about 60% by weight sugar.

The beverages, beverage concentrates and beverage syrups of the present invention are typically substantially free of a sugar alcohol, i.e. less than about 1% by weight. Sugar alcohols include sorbitol, mannitol and xylitol. Sugar alcohols are sometimes used as sweeteners in food products. However, these sugar alcohols, which are noncaloric, are also metabolized by lower gut flora, causing flatulence and related gastrointestinal (GI) tract problems such as diarrhea. Accordingly, at the levels required to sweeten beverages, sugar alcohols are not particularly useful in the present invention.

c. pH and Other Beverage Ingredients

The pH of other beverages and beverage concentrates of the present invention is dependent upon the acid and the sourness impression desired. Typically, the pH can range from about 2.5 to about 5.0. The pH of from about 2.5 to about 4.5.

Other minor beverage ingredients are frequently included. Such ingredients include preservatives such as benzoic acid and salts thereof. Also included are colors derived either from natural sources, or synthetic. Developments in Soft Drinks Technology, Vol. 1 (Applied Science Publishers Ltd. 1978), pp. 185-186 (herein incorporated by reference) for preservatives and colors used in beverages.

D. Preparation of Beverages and Beverage Concentrates

5.1. Fruit Juice, Beverages and Juice Concentrates

Calcium sulfate, and calcium chloride and/or calcium gluconate, solubilized calcium for calcium-supplemented fruit juice beverages invention. Other calcium sources, in particular, calcium hydroxide, typically used in addition to calcium sulfate, and calcium chloride, calcium sources are preferably included in these fruit juice beverages referred to hereafter as a premix method. The following discussion is with regard to formation of orange juice beverages and juice concentrate products according to the present invention. However, this method can be used to supplement fruit juice products based on other citrus juices such as apple juice, as well as mixtures of juices.

In this premix method, an acid component comprising citric acid and the appropriate quantity of water. (If desired, fruit juice or concentrate may be used to supply a portion of the acids). Generally, this acid component typically comprises from about 5 to about 90% by weight citric acid and from about 10 to 100% by weight malic acid. Preferably, this acid component comprises from about 40 to about 95% by weight citric acid and from about 5 to about 60% by weight malic acid. This acid component typically comprises from about 5 to about 95% by weight malic acid, and preferably comprises from about 50 to about 80% by weight malic acid.) As will provide optimum flavor character in the juice.

Once the solution containing the dissolved acids is formed, calcium carbonate is then added. The weight ratio of total acids from about 0.5 to about 12. Preferably, this weight ratio is from

Addition of calcium carbonate, calcium oxide, or calcium provides a premix containing an at least meta-stable solution of that highly soluble calcium citrate and malate species such as are formed in the solution due to the reaction between the stabilizers, the highly soluble calcium citrate species are stable about a few hours. After this short period of time, the highly set to the corresponding acid and the more thermodynamically stable $\text{Ca}_3\text{citrate}_2$.

To improve the stability of the calcium malate and especially
40 preferred to include a premix stabilizer. Materials which can contain
inhibition inhibitors are useful as premix stabilizers. These materials
fructose, high fructose corn syrup, invert sugar, and polysaccharides
starches, xanthan gum, and other edible gums. Concentrated juice
45 polysaccharides are particularly suitable premix stabilizers. For
high fructose corn syrup (especially for extended juice products)
sugar content of from about 35 to about 80° Brix whose source

The premix stabilizer can be added immediately after the solution containing the acids. (When calcium carbonate is preferably allowed to substantially cease before the premix -
50 premix stabilizer (especially in the case of sugars and concentrated solution of the acids prior to addition of the calcium source. The premix solution typically depends upon the stabilizer used. When they are typically added in an amount sufficient to provide a Brix. When polysaccharides are used, the amount can vary with
55 0.5% on a weight/volume basis. When concentrated juice is included in an amount sufficient to provide a sugar content from about 2 to about 6° Brix).

The premix solution of solubilized calcium is typically

usually do not supply 100% of the calcium oxide and calcium carbonate, are used for calcium gluconate. These other juice concentrates by using what is this method will generally be with which are high preferred fruit juice can also be used to prepare calcium-grapefruit juice, noncitrus juices such

malic acid is typically dissolved in fruit juice such as lemon juice can content comprises from 0 to about 90% citric acid. For orange juice, this acid citric acid and from about 10 to about from about 5 to about 60% by weight noncitrus juices such as apple juice, weight citric acid and from about 20 about 20 to about 50% by weight citric the ratio of these acids is selected to

calcium hydroxide, calcium oxide or alum added in the solution is typically to about 6.

due to the aqueous solution of acids mineralized calcium. This is due to the fact citrate, $\text{Ca}(\text{H}_2\text{ citrate})_2$, and CaHmalat source and the acids. Without added premix solution for periods up to only citrate species tend to disproportionate soluble calcium citrate salts, such as

the species in the premix solution, it is with calcium and/or act as crystallizable sugars, such as sucrose, glucose, or such as pectin, algin, hydrolyzed which naturally contain both sugars and the premix stabilizers are sucrose and concentrated orange juice having a described hereafter.

a source is added to the aqueous source, carbon dioxide evolution is added). However, if desired, the source) can be added to the aqueous premix stabilizer included in the premix stabilizer, content of from about 2 to about 40 parts per million. It is typically from about 0.01 to about 10 percent by weight of the premix stabilizer, it is typically about 2 to about 12° Brix (preferably

... in a batch-type fashion, as in the

description above, at room temperature. However, this premix solution fashion. In this continuous method, the ingredients (water, acids, stabilizer) are constantly metered together to form the premix solution. The flow rate of each ingredient is adjusted, as necessary, to insure appropriate solution and to provide the appropriate acidity.

The premix solution containing the solubilized calcium is contained below about 40° F (4.4° C) concentrated orange juice having a sugar Brix (preferably from about 60 to about 70 Brix.), orange juice or orange juice materials such as pulp and peel oils, to provide the products. The particular proportions of premix solution, concentrated and peel oils used will depend upon a number of different factors: supplementation desired and the type of orange juice product involved (orange juice concentrate). Calcium sulfate, and calcium chloride and/or citric acid may be included in the premix solution. After the mix tank or else can be included in the premix solution. After the product is obtained, it is then filled into cans, cartons, bottles or other containers. These products are calcium-supplemented orange juice concentrates.

Inclusion of calcium sulfate and calcium chloride in calcium-reducing or preventing the precipitation of calcium salts (especially during pasteurization or sterilization. It has been surprisingly found that stream passes through pasteurization or sterilization equipment, the stream precipitate out at the high temperatures (e.g., from about pasteurization or sterilization. These precipitated calcium salts typically form a scale on the interior walls of the pasteurizer or sterilizer and eventually flake off into the finished product. Sterilization equipment in which such precipitation problems can occur include stream infusion sterilizers such as the Crepaco Ultratherm Infusion

The concentrated orange juice, orange juice aroma and flavor method of the present invention can be obtained from standard Citrus Science and Technology, Volume 2, (AVI Publishing Co. 19 reference) for standard processing of oranges, grapefruit and tangy Vegetable Juice Processing Technology (3rd Ed., AVI Publishing by reference) for standard processing of noncitrus juices such as etc. to provide sources of juice and juice materials for calcium- Fresh juice is extracted from the oranges, principally of the Valencia initially rasped to provide peel oils which can be used in the method different oranges are frequently blended to adjust the sugar to acid 8:1 to about 20:1 is considered acceptable. However, preferred sugar 11:1 to about 15:1.

Juice is extracted from the oranges by using automatic juice squeezing of the oranges. The type of equipment used to extract juice exiting from the squeezing device contains pulp, rag and seeds. The juice and pulp in a finisher. The juice is then typically separated. (The pulp portion can be used as a source of pulp in the method of...

The serum portion can be concentrated by a variety of techniques 45 concentration or freeze concentration. In evaporative concentration, through an evaporator (e.g. falling film or temperature accelerated). Water vapor, as well as the aroma and flavor volatiles, are stripped are then centrifuged to provide an upper layer (essence oils) and portion of these essence oils and aqueous essence are typically 50 and flavor volatiles for the method of the present invention). concentrated in the evaporator (by heat) to the appropriate amount content of the concentrated juice. This concentrated juice can invention.

Most concentrated orange juices are obtained by evaporative evaporation can also be used to obtain concentrated orange juice useful. Freeze concentration typically involves passing the serum portion

also be prepared in a continuous
source and optional premix
level at which the ingredients
of the calcium-in-the-premix

In a mix tank with chilled (e.g., it of from about 35 to about 80° and flavor volatiles, plus other calcium-supplemented orange juice aroma and flavor volatiles, pulp including the degree of calcium single-strength juice beverage or gluconate, can also be added to calcium-supplemented orange juice appropriate packaging. In the case of fully frozen after being filled into

ng fruit juice beverages helps in
on citrate) on equipment surfaces
s a calcium-containing fruit juice
calcium salts present in the juice
to about 300°F) required for
deposit on the equipment surface of
product stream. Pasteurization or
clude ultra-high temperature direct

s. pulp and peel oils used in the ice processing. See Nagy et al., 177-252 (herein incorporated by reference). (See also Nelson et al, Fruit & Vegetable Processing, pp. 180-505 (herein incorporated by reference), for a discussion of orange juice, grape juice, pineapple juice, concentrated noncitrus juice products.) The pulp and peel of the oranges is present invention). Juices from sugar to acid ratio of from about 10:1 to 1:1 ratios are typically from about

machines, or less often by hand. The juice is not critical. The raw juice and seed are separated from the pulp portion and a serum portion.

which typically include evaporative rum portion of the juice is passed time evaporator (TASTE) type). he juice. These stripped volatiles over layer (aqueous essence). (A the source of orange juice aroma remaining stripped juice is then solids as measured by the sugar used in the method of pr sent

ation. However, freeze concentration is a method of the present invention.

exchanger to form substantially pure ice crystals which are the preferred freeze concentration method is disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 4,419,743, which is incorporated by reference. Unlike evaporative concentration obtained by freeze concentration typically contains the aromatic volatiles as well.

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2. Other Beverages and Beverage Concentrates

The other beverages and concentrates of the present invention are prepared by standard beverage making techniques. Although noncarbonated beverages are given particular emphasis is given to the making of carbonated beverages. Carbonated beverage making techniques, when appropriately modified, can also be used to prepare noncarbonated beverages. Also, while the following description is directed to sugar containing beverages, it can also be applied to diet beverages containing noncaloric sweeteners.

In making a sugar-sweetened carbonated beverage, a beverage concentrate typically contains the emulsified or water-soluble flavoring agents if needed, any color desired and suitable sweetening agents if needed. After the concentrate is formed, sugar and water are then added to make a beverage syrup. An appropriate quantity of water is then added to form the finished beverage. The ratio of water to syrup will vary from about 2:1 (3X syrup) to about 4:1 (5X syrup). Carbon dioxide is introduced either into the beverage syrup or into the drinkable beverage to a level which can then be placed in a container such as a bottle or can and sealed. See L. F. Green, Developments in Soft Drinks Technology, Vol. 1, (Applied Science Publishers, Inc., 1978), pp. 102-107 (herein incorporated by reference), for a further description of beverage making, including carbonation.

The amount of carbon dioxide introduced into the beverage system used and the amount of carbonation desired. Usual amounts of carbon dioxide introduced into the beverage system used will contain from about 1.0 to about 4.5 volumes of carbon dioxide. Preferred amounts will contain from about 2 to about 3.5 volumes of carbon dioxide.

The calcium source(s) (e.g. calcium carbonate, calcium citrate, etc.) and acids (e.g., citric, malic, and phosphoric) can be added at various points during the syrup-carbonated beverage making process. The calcium source can be added at the same point in this process, but can also be added at different times. Acids are included during preparation of the beverage concentrate and calcium chloride) and the acids are preferably added at the same time.

35 Specific Embodiments of Beverages, Beverage Concentrates and Methods for Making Same According to the Present Invention

The following are specific embodiments of beverages, beverage concentrates and methods for making same according to the present invention:

Embodiment 1

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A cola-flavored beverage syrup was prepared from the following ingredients:

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separated from the concentrated juice. A U.S. Pat. No. 4,419,743 to Strobel, issued February 22, 1983, which is incorporated by reference, discloses a method for concentrating, concentrated orange juice and volatile oils as well.

can be prepared by standard beverage making techniques. Although noncarbonated beverages are given particular emphasis is given to the making of carbonated beverages. Carbonated beverage making techniques, when appropriately modified, can also be applied to noncarbonated beverages containing sugar.

The concentrate is usually formed. This concentrate typically contains the emulsified or water-soluble flavoring agents, emulsion stabilizing agents, preservatives. After the concentrate is formed, sugar and water are then added to make a beverage syrup. This beverage syrup is then mixed with carbon dioxide to form a carbonated beverage. The carbonated beverage is then introduced either into the water mixed with carbon dioxide or directly into the carbonation system. The carbonated beverage is then sealed. See L. F. Green, Developments in Soft Drinks Technology, Vol. 1, (Applied Science Publishers, Inc., 1978), pp. 102-107 (herein incorporated by reference), for a further description of beverage making, including carbonation.

The amount of carbon dioxide introduced into the beverage system used and the amount of carbonation desired. Usual amounts of carbon dioxide introduced into the beverage system used will contain from about 1.0 to about 4.5 volumes of carbon dioxide. Preferred amounts will contain from about 2 to about 3.5 volumes of carbon dioxide.

The calcium source(s) (e.g. calcium carbonate, calcium citrate, etc.) and acids (e.g., citric, malic, and phosphoric) can be added at various points during the syrup-carbonated beverage making process. The calcium source can be added at the same point in this process, but can also be added at different times. Acids are included during preparation of the beverage concentrate and calcium chloride) and the acids are preferably added at the same time.

Methods for Making Same According to the Present Invention

The following are specific embodiments of syrups and methods for making same according to the present invention:

Ingredient	Amount
Water	242
Calcium hydroxide	0.15
Calcium chloride dihydrate	0.05
Calcium sulfate dihydrate	1.0
Phosphoric acid (85%)	0.5
High fructose corn syrup 55	22.5
Cola flavor and caramel	4.5
Total	48.5

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The ingredients were mixed together to form the syrup. The syrup was added to 10 oz. bottles (90 g. of syrup in each bottle). The bottles were then cooled to 34° F. Carbonated water (4.95 volumes CO₂) was added to make a final volume in each bottle of 10 oz.

Embodiment 2

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A lemon/lime-flavored beverage was prepared from the following ingredients:

Ingredient	Amount
Water	128
Calcium carbonate	1.5
Calcium sulfate	1.0
Calcium chloride dihydrate	0.5
Citric acid (anhydrous)	1.0
High fructose corn syrup 55	21.0
Total	150

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The above ingredients were mixed together and then 1.67 ml of lemon/lime flavor and 2.4 ml of color were added and mixed. The beverage was added to 16 oz. bottles (about 500 g. in each bottle). The bottles were carbonated to 3.5 volumes CO₂. The beverage had a pH of 3.56.

Embodiment 3

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The lemon/lime-flavored beverage was prepared from the following ingredients:

Ingredient	Amount
Water	100
Calcium hydroxide	0.5
Calcium chloride dihydrate	0.5
Calcium sulfate	1.0
Citric acid (anhydrous)	1.0
Malic acid	1.0
High fructose corn syrup 55	14.0
Total	100

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The above ingredients were mixed together and then added to 16 oz. bottles (about 500 g. in each bottle). To each bottle was added 0.53 ml of lemon/lime flavor and 0.7 ml of color. The bottles were then carbonated to 3.0 volumes CO₂.

For Embodiments 1 to 3, the level of calcium, total acids and chloride in the beverage is shown in the following table:

Embodiment	Calcium (%)	Total Acids (%)	Chloride (%)
1	0.055	0.111	0.024
2	0.060	0.25	0.027
3	0.056	0.192	0.024

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Embodiment 4

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An acid/calcium mixture comprising 275 lbs. of tap water, 5.9 lbs. of calcium hydroxide and 2.89 lbs. of calcium sulfate dihydrate was prepared in a stainless steel tank. In a separate blending tank, 450 lbs. of 65° Brix orange juice concentrate was blended with 1400 lbs. of water. The acid/calcium mixture was added to the large tank containing diluted concentrate. More water was then added to provide a juice solids content of 14° Brix. The acid/calcium mixture (2250 lbs.) was pasteurized using a Crepaco Ultratherm Infusion Heater at a temperature of 230° F for 2 to 4 seconds in the Infusion Heater. The pH of pasteurized juice was 3.85. The inside wall of the Infusion Heater was inspected after the run. No precipitate or deposit of calcium salt was observed.

In a separate control run, an acid/calcium mixture comprising 0.74 lbs. of citric acid and 7.38 lbs. of calcium hydroxide was prepared in a stainless steel tank. The diluted juice/acid/calcium mixture was pasteurized using a Crepaco Ultratherm Infusion Heater under the same processing conditions. The final pH of pasteurized juice was 4.15. Severe deposits of calcium salt were noticed inside the Infusion Heater after the run.

Both runs were prepared to deliver 300 mg. of calcium per 8 oz. of juice.

s. of malic acid, 0.59 lbs. of citric acid, 1.46 lbs. of calcium sulfate (anhydrous) was prepared in a stainless steel tank containing diluted concentrate. The acid/calcium mixture was added to the same Infusion Heater at a temperature of 230° F for 2 to 4 seconds in the Infusion Heater. The pH of pasteurized juice was 3.85. The inside wall of the Infusion Heater was inspected after the run. No precipitate or deposit of calcium salt was observed.

16 lbs. of water, 12.75 lbs. of malic acid, 0.59 lbs. of citric acid, 1.46 lbs. of calcium sulfate (anhydrous) was prepared in a stainless steel tank containing diluted concentrate. The acid/calcium mixture was added to the same Infusion Heater under the same processing conditions. The final pH of the pasteurized juice was determined to be 4.15. Severe deposits of calcium salt were noticed inside the Infusion Heater after the run.

Embodiment 5

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An acid premix containing 275 lbs. of water, 7.6 lbs. of citric acid, 0.39 lbs. of malic acid, 5.2 lbs. of calcium hydroxide, 2.96 lbs. of calcium chloride dihydrate and 1.46 lbs. of calcium sulfate dihydrate was blended into a batch of orange juice as in Embodiment 4. The acid/calcium mixture was pasteurized using a Crepaco Ultratherm Infusion Heater in the same manner as in Embodiment 4. The final pH of the product was determined to be 3.65. No precipitate or deposit of calcium salt was observed inside the Infusion Heater after the run. This formula also delivered 300 mg. of calcium per 8 oz. of juice.

An acid premix containing 275 lbs. of water, 7.6 lbs. of citric acid, 0.39 lbs. of malic acid, 5.2 lbs. of calcium hydroxide, 2.96 lbs. of calcium chloride dihydrate and 1.46 lbs. of calcium sulfate (anhydrous) was prepared in a stainless steel tank. The acid/calcium mixture was pasteurized using a Crepaco Ultratherm Infusion Heater in the same manner as in Embodiment 4. The final pH of the product was determined to be 3.65. No precipitate or deposit of calcium salt was observed inside the Infusion Heater after the run. This formula also delivered 300 mg. of calcium per 8 oz. of juice.

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Embodiment 6

An acid/calcium mixture comprising 300 lbs. of distilled water, 7.6 lbs. of citric acid, 0.59 lbs. of malic acid, 1.46 lbs. of calcium sulfate one half dihydrate and 4.25 lbs. of calcium gluconate dihydrate was blended into a batch of orange juice as in Embodiment 4. Sufficient water was then added to provide a juice solids content of 14.2° Brix. The acid/calcium mixture was added to the same Infusion Heater after the run. The final pH of this product was 3.70. No precipitate or deposit of calcium salt was observed inside the Infusion Heater after the run. The product delivered 300 mg. of calcium per 8 oz. of juice. The flavor of the juice (without calcium salts) by untrained panelists.

An acid/calcium mixture comprising 300 lbs. of distilled water, 7.6 lbs. of citric acid, 0.59 lbs. of malic acid, 1.46 lbs. of calcium sulfate one half dihydrate and 4.25 lbs. of calcium gluconate dihydrate was prepared in a stainless steel tank. The acid/calcium mixture was then pasteurized as in Embodiment 4. Sufficient water was then added to provide a juice solids content of 14.2° Brix. The acid/calcium mixture was added to the same Infusion Heater after the run. The final pH of this product was 3.70. No precipitate or deposit of calcium salt was observed inside the Infusion Heater after the run. The product delivered 300 mg. of calcium per 8 oz. of juice. The flavor of the juice (without calcium salts) by untrained panelists.

Claims

1. A calcium-supplemented beverage, which comprises:

- (a) from 0.05% to 0.15% by weight solubilized calcium, preferably 0.055% to 0.09% by weight;
- (b) from 0.07% to 1% by weight of an edible acid component, preferably said acid component comprises citric acid, malic acid, or mixtures thereof, from 0.1% to 0.6% by weight;
- (c) from 0.02% to 0.14% by weight sulfate;
- (d) up to 0.05% by weight chloride;
- (e) the amount of sulfate and chloride combined being no more than 0.10%;
- (f) at least 0.5% of a flavor component; and
- (g) from 1% to 14% sweetener, selected from sugar, high fructose corn syrup, a non-caloric sweetener, or mixtures thereof.

2. The beverage of Claim 1 which is carbonated with from 4.5 volumes of carbon dioxide, preferably from 2 to 3.5 volumes.

3. The carbonated beverage of Claims 1 or 2 wherein said 4.5 volumes of carbon dioxide, component comprises from 5% to 15% fruit juice by weight of the beverage.

4. A beverage concentrate in liquid form for preparing a drinkable beverage, which comprises:

- (a) from 0.15% to 0.75% by weight solubilized calcium, preferably 0.16% to 0.45% by weight;
- (b) from 0.2% to 5% by weight of an edible acid component, preferably said acid component comprises citric acid, malic acid, or mixtures thereof, from 0.3% to 3% by weight;
- (c) from 0.06% to 0.7% by weight sulfate;
- (d) up to 0.25% by weight chloride;
- (e) the amount of said sulfate and said chloride combined being no more than 0.5% by weight;
- (f) at least 0.5% flavor component; and
- (g) from 30% to 70% water.

5. The concentrate of Claim 4 which further comprises from 70% by weight sugar, preferably high fructose corn syrup.

6. A calcium-supplemented single-strength fruit juice beverage 70% by weight sugar, preferably comprising:

- (a) from 0.05% to 0.26% by weight solubilized calcium, preferably 0.10% to 0.20% by weight;
- (b) from 0.4% to 4% by weight of an edible acid component, preferably from 0.6% to 2% by weight;
- (c) from 0.02% to 0.1% by weight sulfate;
- (d) up to 0.07% by weight chloride;
- (e) the amount of sulfate and chloride combined being up to 0.12% light;
- (f) from 45% to 90% fruit juice, preferably citrus juice, orange juice, or apple juice;
- (g) a sugar content of from 2° to 16° Brix, preferably from 2° to 10° Brix.

7. The beverage of Claim 6 wherein said acid component comprises a mixture of citric acid, malic acid and gluconic acid.

8. A calcium-supplemented fruit juice concentrate, which contains:

- (a) from 0.15% to 1.30% by weight solubilized calcium, preferably 0.3% to 1.0% by weight;
- (b) from 1.2% to 20% by weight of an edible acid component, preferably from 1.8% to 10% by weight;
- (c) from 0.06% to 0.5% by weight sulfate;
- (d) up to 0.35% by weight chloride;
- (e) the amount of said sulfate and said chloride combined being up to 0.5% by weight;
- (f) at least 45% fruit juice, preferably citrus juice; and
- (g) a sugar content of from 6° to 75° Brix.

9. The concentrate of Claim 8 which has been frozen and which comprises at least 95% of the concentrate.

10. The concentrate of Claim 8 wherein said orange juice concentrate arises from 50% to 90% of the



European Patent Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 88 20 1562

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. CL3)
X	EP-A-0 227 174 (PROCTER & GAMBLE CO.) * page 11, embodiment 5; claims 1-10 ---	5, 9	A 23 L 2/26
X, P	EP-A-0 244 903 (PROCTER & GAMBLE CO.) * page 11, embodiment 1; claims 1-19 ---	5, 9	
A	US-A-3 657 424 (C.O. AKTINS et al.) * claims 1-9 * ---	4	
D, A	US-A-4 448 770 (E.E. EPTING) * abstract * ---		
D, A	US-A-4 322 407 (S.Y. KO) * claims 1-9 * -----		
TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. CL3)			
A 23 L 2/00			
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
BERLIN	27-10-1988	SCHULTZE D	
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